

Message Text

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NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 209185

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR TOON ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH DINITZ, AUGUST 17

1. DURING MEETING WITH DINITZ TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, SECRETARY RAISED ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS OF A SOVIET PROTEST TO THE USG ABOUT ALLEGED ISRAELI NAVAL BLOCKADE OF LEBANON, SAYING WE COULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH PRESS LEAKS OF OUR SENSITIVE MESSAGES.

2. DINITZ HANDED THE SECRETARY A PAPER WHICH DENIED THAT ISRAEL MAINTAINED A NAVAL BLOCKADE OF THE LEBANESE COAST. THE ISRAELI NAVY, THE PAPER STATED, HAD INCREASED ITS OWN COASTAL SECURITY AND WAS CARRYING OUT SEARCHES OF INDIVIDUAL BOATS SUSPECTED OF SUPPLYING TERRORISTS FOR ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL OR VIOLATING ISRAELI TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE PAPER ENUMERATED SIX INSTANCES OF FREIGHTERS SEARCHED SINCE JULY 1, AND THREE INSTANCES OF SEABORNE TERRORIST ATTEMPTS AGAINST ISRAEL IN 1974. THE PRESENTATION DID NOT DIFFER IN ESSENTIALS FROM DEFENSE MINISTER

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PERES'S PRESS BRIEFING AND THE JERUSALEM POST'S STORY

REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 5661. THE SECRETARY URGED THAT THIS PUBLIC DISCUSSION END. DINITZ AGREED, AND PROPOSED THAT THE TWO SIDES NOT DISCLOSE THAT THE SUBJECT WAS EVEN DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING.

3. DINITZ SAID THE USG COULD USE THIS DATA ANY WAY IT WISHED. THE USG COULD ASSURE THE SOVIET UNION THAT THESE WERE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR SECURITY AGAINST SEABORNE THREATS AGAINST ISRAEL, NOT CONSTITUTING A BLOCKADE.

4. DINITZ CALLED THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION TO A "PROVOCATIVE" SPEECH SADAT HAD MADE THE DAY BEFORE AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. SADAT REPORTEDLY SAID ISRAEL "NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT ANOTHER LESSON" TO BE CURED OF HER "SENSE OF SUPERIORITY", ETC. THE SECRETARY AGREED TO CALL THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR EILTS.

5. DINITZ NOTED REPORTS THAT TURKEY MIGHT EXTRADITE TO

AN ARAB COUNTRY THE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT. THE SECRETARY AGREED THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND SAID THAT WE HAD ALREADY WEIGHED IN STRONGLY WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONSTANT HARRASSMENT OF TURKEY IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS WAS INEXORABLY DRIVING TURKEY TOWARD A NEUTRALIST AND PRO-ARAB STANCE.

6. DINITZ RAISED THE MATTER OF 125 TANKS AND 94 ARTILLERY PIECES THAT ISRAEL WAS REQUESTING, AND ALSO RENEWED THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LANDING RIGHTS FOR EL AL. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THESE ISSUES. KISSINGER

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